

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall
at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 5th March 2014**

Present: Mrs Joan Metcalfe - Chairman
Mrs Veronica Bunbury - Councillor
Mr Stephen Hicks - Councillor
Mr Bob Coppillie - Councillor
Mr Tim Llewellyn - Councillor
Mr Peter Bellfield – County Councillor
Mr Steven Hudson – District Councillor

In attendance: Ms Marian Rosling - Clerk

Also present: Mr Eric Metcalfe
Mr Andy Wright
Mr Bill Johnson
Mr Nigel Roome
Mr Tim James
Mr W Stennett
Mr Ted Herrington,
Mrs Sally Herrington
Ms Gina Corani

No apologies for absence were received.

1. Declarations of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda.

Joan Metcalfe declared an interest as a member of Playford Village Hall committee.
Tim Llewellyn declared an interest as a member of Playford Village Hall committee and also as a member of the Benefice Magazine team. This information was duly recorded.

2. Planning Applications:

- **DC/14/0326/FUL**
Applicant: Ms Gina Corani, 4 Church Lane, Playford, IP6 9DS.
Proposed: Single storey side extension and alterations

An additional bedroom is being built downstairs for health reasons, replacing two downstairs rooms which are not currently being used. This will square off the corner of the house at the front into a continuous line.

All the neighbours are aware of the plans and it is felt there will be no impact on them. There were no objections.

Joan Metcalfe proposed acceptance and it was seconded by Veronica Bunbury.

Signed

- **DC/14/0444/FUL**

Applicant: Nigel Roome, 2 The Courts, Playford, IP6 2DR.

Proposed: Front, side and rear single storey extensions.

This is a 1960's built house. It is intended to build on an extra bedroom at the rear of the property, and a side extension will create a new bathroom. The extension at the front will have the same glass area as before but will keep the front line of the house straight.

The present form of heating is by electric ducted air – the property needs better insulation and a more efficient form of heating installed. The asbestos cement roof needs replacing and this will be done in grey to match the existing roof. The owner wants to keep the integrity of the building and will re-use the existing doors.

The neighbours at no. 1 The Courts, are happy with the plans but the owner has not had the opportunity to discuss them with the neighbours at no. 3 as he has only recently moved back to the UK from Belgium. However, they have been made aware of the situation.

No objections have been received, Joan Metcalfe proposed acceptance of the plans and this was seconded by Steve Hicks.

- **DC/14/0449/FUL**

Applicant: Mr William Stennett, Lux Farm, Rushmere St Andrew, IP5 1DA.

Proposed: Erection of agricultural field shelter for cattle.

This is a fairly big cattle shelter (36m by 19.5m by 7.5m high) which will create good all-round air flow which is required for the Belties cattle which will use it. The present mid-Victorian shelter is no longer suitable and needs replacing.

It will be visible from the road and possibly from the surrounding footpaths but will not impinge on any footpaths. It will probably not be visible at all from Hill Farm.

Joan Metcalfe proposed acceptance of these plans and Veronica Bunbury seconded it.

3. Council Business:

- A Vice-Chairman needs to be appointed and Steve Hicks has expressed a willingness to fulfil this role. This was proposed by Joan Metcalfe and seconded by Veronica Bunbury.

Signed

- **To approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 8th January 2014, and the planning application meeting on 6th February 2014.**

These were all approved – Joan Metcalfe proposed acceptance and this was seconded by Steve Hicks. The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record.

- **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

- **Action Log Review:**

AP-46 – Website issues. It was decided to defer this until the next meeting.

AP71 – Two sand bins smashed by SCC vehicle when the roadside verges were trimmed back in June last year. Despite further chasing, these have still not been replaced and Peter Bellfield has also not been able to progress this. The job has now been passed to David Chenery who (the Clerk has been assured) will contact us.

AP75- The question of recycling bins at the Village hall is still on-going – no further progress has been made.

AP78 – The clearance of Footpath no. 20 has been further impeded by a fallen tree, which Veronica Bunbury has reported

AP-81 Byway 19 is unusable to pedestrians, it is muddy and heavily rutted due to being used by 4x4 vehicles. Debbie Adams from Highways has succeeded in having Voluntary Restraint Notices placed at either end, requesting drivers not to use the roadway in this condition. Repairs to the surface will be addressed when conditions have dried out sufficiently.

NB - for more information please see copy of the Action Log appended.

4. County Councillor Peter Bellfield's report.

Peter Bellfield reported that Council Tax will remain at the same level for 2014/2015.

Education: 95% of Secondary School applicants got their first choice of school for September and 98.6% were allocated a place at one of their first three choices of school. Discussions with Council leaders have highlighted the need to get the right staff in the right places to achieve better Ofsted results. A new head of education was appointed last July and it is hoped that standards will now improve to Ofsted's specification.

Signed

Broadband: An extra £5million has been extracted from the Government to be spent on improving coverage in rural places which means that now 95% of the population will receive improved service instead of 85%.

Highways: Lots of complaints have been received recently about the state of the roads but the water table is high and repairs to potholes are not possible while the surface is still so wet. There is a possibility of work being commissioned as jobs are not getting completed.

Boundary Commission changes: Dr. Dan Poulter has suggested the creation of a new ward (to be called Fynn Valley ward) to encompass seven local rural communities including Playford, as an alternative to the present proposal to reassign Playford to Rushmere ward and The Bealings to Woodbridge ward. Feedback is being requested for individual councils' views. Peter Bellfield is in favour of the suggestion although the variance is out by just over 10%. Playford's natural affinity is not with Rushmere, Kesgrave or Ipswich – there is only a small chance of the Government agreeing to this new proposal but the more views which can be expressed, the better chance we may have of success. Individuals may also write in with their opinions – the closing date is 28th April 2014. The proposed new Rushmere ward is significantly bigger than the surrounding ones.

Questions from the floor:

Eric Metcalfe enquired when Playford might get better Broadband coverage. There is now an online map showing forecasts of the new coverage – apparently the Bealings will get improved coverage before Playford.

Gina Corani asked that as children are now required to stay on at school until they are 18, are there any plans to improve advice on careers or apprenticeships? There appears to be no concrete advice system. Peter Bellfield will take this matter up – he said the County Council are very keen to promote apprenticeships.

5. District Councillor Steven Hudson's report.

Steven Hudson reiterated that Council Tax was remaining the same for the fourth year running and that this also met with approval from the opposition.

As regards Boundary changes, the number of wards needs to be reduced from 55 to 42. Rushmere was formerly combined with Playford in the old County divisions but it now made more sense to keep rural villages separate from urban ones. Playford as a council must write to the Boundary Commission to reflect this. He stated that Tuddenham parish was in favour of the new ward boundary proposals made by Dr Dan Poulter.

Relocation of the present SCDC offices is still under debate – the present site at Melton is outdated and has become unsuitable. Cedar House, the premises of the Disability Centre, is now on the market.

There is a Locality Budget of £4K for the District Council, £2K of which must be spent before the end of March.

Signed

6. Report by Police

12PT report was received stating that there were no crimes reported in Playford during February.

7. Finance

• **Reporting & authorisation of cheques:-**

Cheques signed since the last meeting:

ChqNo 718	Playford Parish Hall	£70.00	Rent/ end March
ChqNo 719	Old Parsonage Gdn Services	£135.00	Hedge/ditch clearance
ChqNo 720	P E Holmes	£23.99	Domain name reg.
ChqNo 721	HMRC	£96.00	Tax on Clerk's salary Jan - March
ChqNo 722	M J Rosling	£26.19	Clerk's expenses

There is a Clerks' Networking Day on 6th March when updates of practices will be reviewed/discussed. Joan Metcalfe proposed the Clerk should attend and this was seconded by Veronica Bunbury – the cost will be £15.00 +VAT.

8. East Anglian Offshore Windfarm

No new issues have been raised in the last two months

9. Highways

The Chairman has received several complaints about farm vehicles, especially those driven by contractors, which are damaging verges around the village, especially in Butts Road. They are causing holes in Brook Lane and have also broken a manhole cover. There seems to be no legal recourse to prevent this. Joan Metcalfe proposed writing to all the local landowners requesting they ask their contractors to take more care. She will draft letters and circulate them to the council for approval.

10. Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review.

Joan Metcalfe proposed a letter should be written to the Boundary Commission to give our views on the proposed changes. The Clerk will draft a letter saying that Playford agrees with Dr Dan Poulter's suggestion of a new ward. Individuals can also express their views by visiting the Boundary Commission website at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

Signed

11. Grass cutting contract.

Joan Metcalfe has been unable to find a quote for grass cutting which was cheaper than the present service offered by The Old Parsonage Garden Services. It was therefore resolved to ask them to continue for another year. The Clerk will contact them suggesting a stricter cutting schedule and that they cut the hedges earlier than last year.

12. Pocock paintings

Joan Metcalfe is proposing to hold an auction of the Pocock paintings in the village - this would give everyone a fair chance of acquiring one. It has proved impossible to get a realistic valuation as no other paintings by the artist have been sold lately. Bonhams, auctioneers of Bury St Edmunds had been suggested as a possible means of raising money from the paintings but it was thought that a local auction would be more appropriate. Paul Bruce, as a friend of Ipswich Museum, has been given clearance to bid for one or possibly two paintings for them. Joan suggested 29th March as a possible date for viewing the paintings and then holding the auction later in the year. All were in favour of an auction and agreed that the proceeds would go to council funds after reimbursing Joan Metcalfe for the initial purchase and for expenses of holding the auction. It was suggested that the paintings could be reproduced as post cards to be sold in the village to raise funds for the council but there may be problems with copyright as the owner(s) of the paintings would not necessarily be the copyright holders.

13. Planning Issues:

SCDC Planning dept. has confirmed that permission has been granted for the alterations at Sonnet House, ref: **DC/13/3669/FUL**, subject to certain conditions including work commencing within 3 years of the date of permission. It has been reported that an entrance across council land is being made at Sonnet House to gain access to their new drive. This point was made when plans were submitted for approval last December. A neighbour has lodged a complaint and has telephoned the planning department. A representative has also written to complain on behalf of the WI, as daffodil bulbs were planted by them on that piece of land. Joan Metcalfe will speak to the planners as soon as possible.

Joan Metcalfe and Tim Llewellyn represented Playford council at the SCDC planning meeting at Melton on 10th Feb 2014 to point out the disadvantages of passing the plans for the new house in the garden at Sevenoaks, ref **DC/13/3353/FUL**. Steven Hudson was also instrumental in persuading the council to refuse permission. SCDC Planning dept. has since written to confirm that Planning Permission has been refused as it would represent an overdevelopment of the site and would have an overbearing impact upon the residents of the adjoining properties. The proposal is contrary to SCDC Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Plan Document Policies DM121 & DM23.

Signed

14. Outdoor Playspace funds

It has been confirmed to the Clerk that £1163 is still available from The Outdoor Playspace Fund, to be spent on play equipment and this will hold good until 2018. However, this must be spent on play equipment rather than sports equipment. If any new houses are built in the meantime, the amount of funding will increase accordingly.

Steve Hicks has researched basket ball nets; a fixed one-post would cost between £475 - £1073 and a freestanding one up to £5K, though there are several options around £1K. Rubberised surface tiles cost in the region of £33 per square metre.

It was resolved to get definite quotes for equipment, surfacing and concreting an area and to submit them to the Outdoor Playspace Team to see how we stand and whether they would be acceptable. The Clerk will produce the application forms and look at similar equipment at Grundisburgh playing fields.

15. Correspondence received:

- a) A letter was received by the Chairman from Mr John Fenton in response to her letter requesting that hedges overhanging onto roadways around his land be trimmed back. He is promising to do this when time permits.
- b) A letter was received from the Disability Advice Service asking for a donation, and highlighting the fact that 5 people from the Playford area had made enquiries from them in the last year. The Clerk has replied asking them to reapply in November when the annual budget will be discussed.

16. AOB

None

17. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 7th May 2014 at 7.30pm (AGM), immediately after APM at 7pm

The meeting ended at 9pm

Signed